

# **Council on Correction Meeting Minutes March 13, 2018**

## **Attendance COC Members**

Darryl Chambers  
Jane Hovington  
Ed Perez  
Jennifer Powell  
Muhammad Salaam  
Richard Senato

## **DOC**

Alan Grinstead, Deputy Commissioner  
Jayme Gravell, Chief Media Relations  
John Sebastian, Deputy Bureau Chief

## **Sunset Committee**

Julie Fedele

### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Introduction of Council members**

The welcome and introduction was bypassed since everyone knew each other. There was one introduction - John Sebastian, Deputy Bureau Chief of Department of Correction.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes from January 16, 2018 were reviewed and approved.

### **4. Joint Oversight and Sunset Committee Hearing**

Council was asked to attend the hearing, Darryl Chambers, Muhammad Salaam, Ed Perez, and Jennifer Powell. They made a presentation on the council sub-committees and the responsibility of these committees. They felt the language was ambiguous; they wanted the council to have little more teeth. They wanted to have statute and codes to enable the council to get information, make decision, recommendations as needed. They asked about quorums, posting of minutes and agendas which were answered. Darryl received a letter dated March 12, from the Committee asking Commissioner Perry Phelps to provide a response as to council's advisory role to the department, the frequency, the kind and degree of feedback the department would like to receive from

the council; and any other council operations the department approves of or would like to see approved; and to provide a detailed report as to what the department would like to see the council contribute. There is a meeting for the March 20 at noon, all the council is requested to be there and it is understandable if some are unable to attend. Darryl Chambers asked that everyone receive a copy of the presentation presented to the hearing committee. Perez asked if the response from the letter is necessary before the next meeting of the committee. He discussed some of the work done by the previous council in visiting the prisons and attending the graduations. There was discussion on the meeting and the letter. Ed Perez asked about some of the magazine discussing what is being done at some of the other facilities which we could preview. He also brought up about tablets. Darryl Chambers discussed the 'soft tablets' and Deputy Commissioner Alan Grinstead discussed what is currently being done at some of the facilities. They piloted in Smyrna but they are only available in the educational area. They are working on wiring for more tablets. They are determining how many will be available and how they will be distributed, costs are all being discussed.

#### **5. Independent Reviewer's Findings**

Darryl Chambers was asked to independently view a video that captured Mr. Martin's final moments at Vaughn Correctional facility. On Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, he met with Commissioner Perry Phelps, Deputy Commissioner Alan Grinstead and Bureau Chief Steven Wesley to offer an independent assessment of the video. The meeting took place about 10:00 a.m. at the Administrative Building in Dover. From his determination there was no foul play in the handling of the situation. He also stated the staff responded in a timely manner. He viewed the video several times to make sure he understood the nature of handling time in this issue. He also stated this set a precedent in allow us to act as an independent viewer this video when a request was made for an independent viewer of the video. Deputy Commissioner Alan Grinstead stated this was in response to a complaint and they wanted an independent viewing of the video.

#### **6. Next Steps/Summarize Action Items**

Next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2018 location to be announced; Mr. Senato will schedule tour for the council.

#### **7. Provide Updates on Last Meeting's Public Comments**

Inmate's council: Richard Senato expounded as to whether the council does/does not represent all inmates, some do not get to pick their own representation, and inmates do not always get escorted to meetings and information on compassionate release. He gave a written report to Deputy Commissioner Alan Grinstead. (I did not get a copy) He determined the allegations are false. The IAC is composed of inmates of JTV

minimum and medium housing units only, gang members are not allowed to be a part of IAC. Mohammad questioned where he gathered his information. There was discussion.

Regarding Compassionate Care, there is already a policy in place for these situations.

Jane Hovington asked about ID Cards for the council member. Deputy Commissioner Alan Grinstead said they did away with ID Cards and once clearance is approved, they will be approved for access to the prison with prior notification. Once cleared, you would need a personal ID card.

The next meeting will be in either Dover or Sussex County. Jane Hovington asked if this meeting will be opened to the public or just the council members.

#### Updates from Subcommittee

Bylaws: It was suggested we pass the bylaws and amend it later if there is a need. The mission statement is broad but it provides us leeway to make any changes necessary. Mohammad made the motion to accept the bylaws and seconded by Jane Hovington, passed unanimously. Jennifer is making a copy available to Commissioner Perry Phelps.

#### **8. Public Comment**

Ms. Lori Alberts: Mr. Steely received his medical records. She is asking that when the inmates travel out of state, their medical records should accompany them. Guys are upset as there are no programs as a result of the lockdown last year. There needs to be programs for the guys to keep them busy and less likely to get in trouble. She submitted a proposal for intense, live in pre-release program separate from Level 5. If possible in C Block but on level 5 grounds. It is imperative that they learn how to apply for a job on line, balance a check book, life skills, what is acceptable in society and how to communicate with people in an appropriate manner. There was some discussion.

Meeting adjourned: 5:30 pm